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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/719,320	03/05/2001	Volker Hinz	BAYER 10 218	7238

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EXAMINER

BALASUBRAMANIAN, VENKATARAMAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1624

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/719,320

Applicant(s)

HINZ ET AL.

Examiner

Venkataraman Balasubramanian

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 12 and 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 12 and 13 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicants' preliminary amendment, which included cancellation of claim 11 and addition of new claims 12 –13, filed on 3/5/01 is made of record.

Claims 1-10 and 12-13 are now pending.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-9 and 12-13, drawn to compound, composition and method of use wherein (T)xA is pyridazine.

Group II, claim(s) 1-9 and 12-13, drawn to compound, composition and method of use wherein (T)xA is pyrimidine.

Group III, claim(s) 1-0 and 12-13, drawn to compound, composition and method of use wherein (T)xA is pyrazine.

Group IV, claim(s) 1-9 and 12-13, drawn to compound, composition and method of use wherein (T)xA is pyridine.

Group V, claim(s) 1-0 and 12-13, drawn to compound, composition and method of use wherein (T)xA is thiazole.

Group VI, claim(s) 1-9 and 12-13, drawn to compound, composition and method of use wherein (T)xA is oxazole.

Group VII, claim(s) 1-9 and 12-13, drawn to compound, composition and method of use wherein (T)xA is imidazole.

Group VIII, claim(s) 1-9 and 12-13, drawn to compound, composition and method of use wherein (T)xA is pyrrole.

Group IX, claim(s) 1-9 and 12-13, drawn to compound, composition and method of use wherein (T)xA is furan.

Group X, claim(s) 1-9 and 12-13, drawn to compound, composition and method of use wherein (T)xA is thiophene.

Group XI, claim(s) 1-9 and 12-13, drawn to compound, composition and method of use wherein (T)xA is benzene.

Group XII, claim(s) 10, drawn to a triazinyl compound species.

Upon electing any one of the groups I-XI, applicants should also elect a suitable choice of B if B is a heteroaromatic ring listed in page 90.

The inventions listed as Groups I-XII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The requirement for unity of invention is two-fold: (1) common utility and (2) sharing a substantial structural feature disclosed as being essential to the utility. In the instant case both conditions are not met with.

Group I-XII are independent and distinct from each other because they are directed to dissimilar compounds with varying heteroaryl cores namely pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl,

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thiophenyl, furanyl cores which are not art recognized equivalent of each other. The sole feature common to the groups which does not vary is the presence of carboxylic group which by itself cannot be considered to define patentable contribution over prior art given such fragment with substituents is known as evidenced by the art cited in the description and International Search Report and therefore would not constitute a special technical feature as defined by PCT Rule 13.2. In addition to the above cores, B and substituent R₇ are permitted to be varying heteroaryl cores

Consequently, the groups are different and require separate prior art searches. They can be made and used independently. Art, which may render obvious or anticipate one of the groups would not necessarily do the same for the other group. Each can support a patent as the compounds of each group are capable of being utilized alone not in combination with other members listed in the Markush group. Placing all such compounds into the same claims is proper to scientific classification as they are separately classified and require separate searches. Search of all these class of compounds would be a serious search burden.

Furthermore, the entire structure including the side chain is varied that there appears to be no substantial structural feature that is solely responsible for the physiological activity being relied on herein. In addition, the varying core may have different utility, which render them patentably distinct as evident from the references cited in the International Search Report. Thus both the conditions stated above needed for single inventive entity are not met with.

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

Examples 1-43.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

See examples 1-43.

The following claim(s) are generic: 1-9 and 12-13.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or

corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: See reasons stated above for generic claims.

Due to distinct nature of the each invention, the restriction is set forth in writing.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be addressed to Venkataraman Balasubramanian (Bala) whose telephone number is (703) 305-1674. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8.00 AM to 5.30 PM.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned (703) 308-4556.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

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02/28/2002